REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Title of Publication:	Dopegame
Other Known Title:	The Dope Game
Format:	Computer Game
Director/Author:	Not Stated
Producer/Publisher:	Not Stated
Country of Origin:	New Zealand
Language:	English
Applicant:	Secretary for Internal Affairs
Distributor:	89games
Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.
Descriptive Note:	Contains violence.
Display Conditions:	on film When the film is in its inactive state: Nil. When the film is in its active state: The film must be publicly displayed only in premises, or a part of premises, set aside for the public display of restricted publications (whether or not articles other than restricted publications are also displayed in those premises or that part of those premises). on poster Nil
Date of entry in Register:	09 November 2005
Date of direction to issue a label:	Not Applicable
OFLC No:	501331

Unexcised version of publication:

	Component	
Game:	Dopegame	

Excisions: No Excisions Recommended

Reasons for excisions:

Not Applicable

Summary of reasons for classification:

The computer game entitled *Dopegame* is classified as:
Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

The unrestricted availability of this publication would be injurious to the public good given the manner in which it deals with matters of crime and violence. Weighting has been given to the game's treatment of illegal drugs, such as the fact that the player assumes the role of owner/producer of a drug cultivating empire. Children and young persons lack the maturity and development to place in context the game's messages, or lack of a message, about illegal drugs. The publication's depictions of the infliction of serious physical harm may also have the effect of trivialising violence through presenting this behaviour as entertaining and exciting. Constant exposure to the game's killings of (animated) human characters, in which the player is an active participant, has the potential in children and younger persons to lead to a desensitisation in general towards violent behaviour in real life. Likelihood of injury to the public good is avoided by restricting this publication to persons that have attained the age of 16 years.

The Classification Office has considered the effects of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 on the application of the classification criteria. The classification of this publication interferes with the freedom of expression, but this is a reasonable limitation on the freedom of expression that reflects the concern of a free and democratic society to limit the availability of publications that deal with matters of crime and violence in a manner that is likely to be injurious to the public good.